

Question:

In several places in the document, PG&E states that “prior to the current wildfires, for example, 44 of the 49 counties within PG&E’s service territory had at least some portion of the county classified as being in extreme fire danger.” Can you please clarify what entity performed this classification? Is this a permanent classification or was PG&E referring to weather conditions prior to October 8th?

Response:

Each day, PG&E uses a fire danger forecasting tool called the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) to identify areas within PG&E’s service territory that are classified as having “Very High” and “Extreme” wildfire danger. PG&E employs the PG&E Operational Mesoscale Modeling System (POMMS) to provide the necessary weather inputs to NFDRS, in order to generate the necessary fire parameters required to determine fire danger ratings.

The classifications in the attached maps are for POMMS forecast conditions on October 8 and October 9. Each day classifications are forecast for that day and the next day. The classifications in the attached maps were generated on the day of for each map.

A description of PG&E’s Fire Danger Rating System is included in Section of 4.3 of the attached EPIC Final Report titled “Demonstrate New Resource Forecast Methods to Better Predict Variable Resource Output” dated December 16, 2016 (“Report”). A description of POMMS is included in section 4.1 of the Report. This Report was submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission on February 28, 2017 in PG&E’s 2016 Annual Electric Program Investment Charge Report in Attachment C, Appendix B.